as Rs. 5·49 crores. It is not possible to quantify the loss of revenue on account of these accidents.

(c) and (d) No Commission under the Commission of Inquiry Act was appointed to go into any of the train accidents on South Central Railway during 1991-92. However, three serious accidents are being inquired into by the Commissioners of Railway Safety, who function under the control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. The findings of the Commissioners are awaited.

राजधानी एक्सप्रेस में यात्रा सुविधायें

2235. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) नई दिल्ली-हावड़ा के बीच चलने वाली राजधानी एक्सप्रेस में नई दिल्ली से इलाहाबाद जाने और इलाहाबाद से नई दिल्ली आने के लिए यात्रियों को किन-किन श्रेणियों में यात्रा करने की अनुमति है ; और

(ख) इस रेलगाडी में कितने यात्रियों को प्रथम श्रेणी में आरक्षण कोटा उपलब्ध है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) नई दिल्ली और इलाहाबाद के बीच 2301/2302 राजधानी एक्सप्रेस गाडियों द्वारा यात्रियों को इलाहाबाद के लिए नियत कोटा के अनुसार वातानुकूल शयनयान और वातानुकूल कुर्सीयान में बुक किया जाता है ।

(ख) इस गाड़ी में पहले दर्जे का स्थान उपलब्ध नहीं है ।

अलाभकारी रेल लाइनों का निजीकरण

2236. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार अलाभकारी रेल-लाइनों का निजीकरण किए जाने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है, और किन-किन रेल लाइनों का निजीकरण किए जाने का निर्णय लिया गया है ; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) से (ग) यद्यपि ऐसी कई शाखा लाइनें हैं जिनसे रेलों को आवर्ती हानि हो रही है, फिर भी इन लाइनों का निजीकरण करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है ।

Fere Railway passes to Ex-M.Ps.

2237. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Ex-Members of Parliament likely to be benefitted by Railway Ministry's decision to issue them free railway passes ;

(b) the estimated expenditure to be incurred due to this decision ;

(c) whether it is a fact that railways propose to allow the companion with ex--M.Ps. and extend this facility to all ex-M.Ps. irrespective of the duration of their term ;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) As on 1-4-1992, the number of Ex-MPs who were drawing pension from Parliament and would thus be eligible for railway passes was 1523. This excludes the ex-MPs who are eligible to draw, but are not actually drawing, pension from the Parliament. In view of this, the totel expenditure cannot be worked out.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In view of the far reaching implications, it is not proposed to extend the existing facilities further.

Maintenance of National Highways by private firms

2238. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV :
SHRI SURENDER SINGH :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total length of National Highways in different parts of the country ;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to hand over the development and maintenance work of National Highways to private firms ;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard : and

(d) whether Government propose to sell debentures in open market to borrow the money to be utilised for maintenance of National Highways in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The total length of National Highways is 33,689 Kms.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, Govt. of India is contemplating to involve private sector in the development/maintenance of the National Highways. One of the pre-requisites to involve private sector is to amend the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) to enable levy of fee on selected sections of National Highways in the country. A Bill for amending the NH Act, 1956 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 27-2-1992.

(d) No, Sir.

Replacement of cranes by Madras Port Trust

2239. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madras Port Trust has suggested for the replacement of the existing low capacity ordinary cranes with more efficient cranes to operate coal movement ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) what action is being taken thereon ; and

(d) whether the Madras Port Trust is implemen ingth is computerisation programme and if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Three gantry type cranes of 20 tonnes capacity have been suggested for purchase by Madras Port Trust to replace 6 low capacity cranes for handling bulk materials like fertiliser, sulphur, scrays, heavy steel materials etc. and not for handling coal.

(c) The proposal is under examination.

(d) Madras Port have been carrying on its computerisation Programme continuously by way of acquisition of hardwares, their upgradation and development of softwares. Various activities of Madras Port such as pay rolls, maintenance of stores inventory, financial accounting, compilation of trade statistics, provident fund mangement, piece-rate incentive scheme, pension management, Railway wagon management, maintenance of Engineering Data Book, monitoring of turn round of vessels, container handling, tracking and billing are